

Message Text

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FOR ARA, D, L AND P ONLY

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PGOV CI
SUBMECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION: REVISED
SCENARIO

REF: SANTIAGO 4650; TELCON LANDAU/STEVEN JUNE 20

1. IN VIEW OF FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS' -- NOT TOTALLY UNEXPECTED
BUT STILL SHOCKING -- REFUSAL TO ACCEPT DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S

INVITATION FOR A BILATERAL, I MUST REAPPRAISE MY RECOMMENDATIONS
CONTAINED IN REFTEL AND BELIEVE THAT A MORE DRASIC AND
IMMEDIATE SIGNAL IS CALLED FOR.

2. CUBILLOS' REFUSAL TO MEET WITH CHRISTOPHER UNDRLLINES THE HARD-LINE ATTITUDE OF THE TWO NEW CIVILIAN MINISTERS, FERNANDEZ AND CUBILLOS, IN THE LETELIER CASE. CUBILLOS, WHO CAME TO HIS JOB WITH A MARKED PRO-U.S. ATTITUDE, UNDERTOOK A NUMBER OF FAVORABLE INITIATIVES FOR US FOR WHICH HE WAS SEVERELY REBUKED. HE TOLD ME, FOR INSTANCE, THAT PINOCHET WAS UNHAPPY THAT CUBILLOS URGED HIM TO SEE THE AFL-CIO VISITING TEAM WHICH, AFTER THEIR MEETING,

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MADE A NUMBER OF NEGATIVE STATEMENTS REGARDING THE GOC'S LABOR POLICY. THERE WERE OTHER SIMILAR INCIDENTS. PARTLY TO REGAIN CREDIBILITY WITH PINOCHET AND PARTLY BECAUSE NEITHER FERNANDEZ NOR CUBILLOS FEEL ANY SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LETELIER MURDER, THEY ADOPTED A TOUGHER LINE WHICH CATERS TO PINOCHET'S NATURAL STONEWALLING INSTINCTS.

3. IN REFTEL, I EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT A STATEMENT OF NON-COOPERATION MIGHT WELL BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. IT COULD HELP PINOCHET RALLY INTERNAL SUPPORT. THAT RISK IS REAL. BUT, FOLLOWING THE CUBILLOS' REFUSAL TO MEET WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, I THINK WE MUST RUN THAT RISK IN THE HOPE, SMALL THOUGH IT MAY BE, THAT THE DECLARATION WILL FORCE PINOCHET TO RECONSIDER THE GOC'S PRESENT POSTURE. THUS, I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT WE SHOULD LINK MY RETURN FOR CONSULATION WITH A STATEMENT COMPLAINING ABOUT LACK OF COOPERATION.

4. I SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ISSUE THIS STATEMENT ON FRIDAY, JUNE 23. I WILL DEPART FRIDAY NIGHT. THE STATEMENT WILL BE IN THE U.S. AND CHILEAN PRESS ON SATURDAY. AT THE NOON BRIEFING ON MONDAY, JUNE 26, ANY QUESTION WHETHER MY RETURN WAS CONNECTED WITH THE JUSTICE COMPLAINT CAN BE ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY, THUS ESTABLISHING LINKAGE AND CLEAR SIGNAL TO THE GOC.

5. I SUGGEST STRONGLY THAT THE STATEMENT FRIDAY BE ISSUED BY JUSTICE (BEFORE MY DEPARTURE FROM HERE) AND NOT BY STATE, TO GIVE ME MORE MANEUVERABILITY. ON MY RETURN TO SANTIAGO, I WOULD PLAN TO SEEK AN EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH PINOCHET TO REITERATE OUR REQUESTS AND, AS APPROPRIATE, INFORM HIM OF MEASURES THE USG INTENDS TO TAKE IF COOPERATION IS NOT FORTHCOMING (THE TOPIC OF OUR DISCUSSIONS NEXT WEEK, AND ON WHICH I WILL BRING RECOMMENDATIONS).

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